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Curios and Relics

Clothing

Gloves

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

GLOVES AND HANDKERCHIEF worn by Lincoln night of Assassination

N. Y. City Journal

FEB 1 1921

Church Exhibits Gloves Lincoln Wore When He Was Shot

The gloves and handkerchief that Lincoln had with him on the night he was assassinated were exhibited at the Bushwick Avenue Congregational Church, Bushwick avenue and Cornelia street.

The Rev. John Lewis Clark, pastor, said the articles had belonged at one time to Captain Benjamin Richardson, a friend of Lincoln, and were loaned to the church by a granddaughter of Captain Richardson, who asked that her name not be divulged.

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Lincoln Library Acquires Significant Collection Of Lincoln Artifacts

Jun 26th, 2007



Original beaver fur stove pipe hat belonging to Lincoln. Brim shows finger mark wears in the fur where he would have held the brim to "tip his hat."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.:The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has acquired the Taper collection of more than 1,500 artifacts, manuscripts and artworks that span Lincoln's entire life and provide insight into the forces that shaped the man who helped shape the American nation. The collection is celebrated for its holdings, which shed light on Lincoln's dramatic personal life and his relationships with his wife and children, friends, colleagues and even his enemies and detractors.

The newly acquired objects will be seen in museum exhibits beginning July 3, with a small exhibition of items in the museum's galleries. The Lincoln Library and Museum is also working to develop traveling exhibitions featuring key documents from the Taper collection. The Treasures Gallery, a designated exhibition

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space within the museum, will be renamed later this year in honor of Louise Taper.

The acquisition of this unique collection has been made possible through purchase by the Lincoln Library and Museum and a generous gift from the Taper family. The acquisition greatly enhances the museum's outstanding and far-ranging collection of documents and artifacts, and advances its position as the foremost center for the study of Lincoln's life, times and enduring relevance.

Among the highlights of the Taper collection are Lincoln's iconic stovepipe hat; the bloodstained gloves and handkerchief Lincoln carried on the night of his death; a vast number of artifacts, personal effects and unpublished correspondence belonging to Mary Todd Lincoln; and an 1824 Sum Book page, which contains the first known sample of Lincoln's writing.



Wax seal used by Abraham Lincoln during his presidency.

The Taper collection also includes extensive holdings relating to the Booth family, including assassin John Wilkes Booth and his brothers, Junius Brutus Booth Jr and Edwin Booth — who ironically saved the life of Lincoln's son, Robert, two years before Lincoln's assassination. These artifacts offer a multifaceted portrait of the Booths, the first theatrical family in US history, and go beyond the terrible act committed by John Wilkes Booth to show a family torn apart by the Civil War, like so many others.

The acquisition comes during a period of growing national fascination with Lincoln, one of the most beloved and most misunderstood figures in American history. Unlike other major collections of Lincoln artifacts, objects in the Taper collection were acquired based not only on their use for scholars but on their emotional and intellectual value, providing new insight into Lincoln's rise from poverty, his relationship with his wife and his despair over the death of two of his children.

Comprising an extraordinary number of high-quality artifacts and documents, the Taper collection is unparalleled in its breadth among all private Lincoln collections. The collection was carefully

built by Louise Taper, who first began to collect Lincoln artifacts after being deeply moved by a biographical novel about the marriage of the 16th president.



Leather gloves worn by Lincoln to Ford's Theater on the night of his assassination. Blood stains are visible at the cuffs.

Fascinated by Lincoln, "the human being, the family man," she took a part-time job with a manuscript dealer in Los Angeles, forgoing a salary in exchange for payment in historical documents. After a year, she had earned her first piece — a message written to Lincoln during the Civil War, with the president's signature at bottom. She has worked persistently since to acquire objects that not only documented Lincoln's presidential career, but which shed new light on his personal life, on his relationships with those closest to him and on the unique circumstances of life during the Civil War.

Her interest in Lincoln was furthered by her 1985 marriage to Barry Taper, a member of the prominent Los Angeles Taper family and son of philanthropist S. Mark Taper. The resulting collection, which reflects Taper's passionate investment in Lincoln's history, includes the largest known (after the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum collection) assortment of correspondence belonging to Mary Todd Lincoln, as well as the most extensive archive of materials from the Booth family. In addition to its value in scholarly study, the collection provides the most personal and nuanced portrait to date of Lincoln's rich and varied life.


The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum is at 212 North Sixth Street. For information, 217-558-8844 or www.alplm.org.

Antiques and the Arts Editorial Content

LINCOLN RELICS GIVEN MUSEUM

White kid gloves said to have been worn by Abraham Lincoln at a White House reception are today being examined by public building officials with interest. If the authenticity of their story is established the gauntlets will be placed on exhibition at the Lincoln Museum.

According to the donors, Mrs. Ralph E. Hawkins, of Minneapolis, and Mrs. Bert D. Ingels, of East Orange, N. J., the gloves were given to their grandfather, Luther W. Lawrence, of Illinois, by Mrs. Lincoln after the assassination of the President. Lawrence was a friend of Lincoln.



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